

Mission Statement

The Department of Mental Retardation is dedicated to creating, in partnership with others, innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with mental retardation to participate fully and meaningfully in, and contribute to, their communities as valued members.

Guiding Principles

- Respect the dignity each individual through vigorous promotion of the human and civil rights which, in part, strives to keep people free from abuse or neglect;
- Promote the capacity of people with mental retardation to exercise choice and to make meaningful decisions in their lives;
- Empower individuals and their families to speak out for themselves and others, initiate ideas, have choices and make decisions about supports, consistent with available resources;
- Enhance public awareness of the valuable roles persons with mental retardation assume in society through promotion of physical and social integration;
- Support the dignity of achievement that results from risk-taking and making informed choices, while recognizing that the Department's role in supporting consumers to minimize risk to themselves and ensuring that their choices do not infringe upon the rights of others;
- Recognize that services providing meaningful benefits to individuals require a commitment to ongoing monitoring and evolutionary change;
- Provide access to services through a single, local, and familiar setting;
- Assure that ethnic and cultural diversity of each individual and staff are valued and respected in the design and delivery of services;
- Ensure that services and resources are flexible, cost effective, allocated according to standards of fairness and equity, and provided in the least intrusive manner possible;
- Operate according to sound fiscal and management practices which lead to the responsible use of public funds;
- Operate with an appreciation for the responsibilities that come with public service.

Regional Offices

Western

1380 Main Street, 4th Floor
Springfield, MA 01103
Terry O'Hare, Regional Director
(413) 731-7742

Central

Glavin Regional Center
214 Lake Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
Diane Enochs, Regional Director
(508) 845-9111

Northeast

Hogan Regional Center
Hathorne, MA 01937
Amanda Chalmers, Regional Director
(978) 774-5000

Southeast

68 North Main Street
Carver, MA 02330
Richard O'Meara, Regional Director
(508) 866-5000

Metro

Fernald Developmental Center
200 Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA 02452
Gail Gillespie, Regional Director
(781) 894-3600, ext 501

Central Office

Department of Mental Retardation
500 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02118
Voice (617) 727-5608
TTY (617) 624-7590

DMR

At Your Service

***A Guide to the
Support Services
of the
Massachusetts
Department of
Mental Retardation***

Mitt Romney
Governor

Kerry Healey
Lieutenant Governor

Ronald Preston
Secretary, Executive Office of
Health and Human Services

Gerald J. Morrissey, Jr.,
Commissioner

Welcome to the DMR

The Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) is a state agency that provides support to the Commonwealth's citizens who have mental retardation.

It is part of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Every day the DMR provides a wide array of services to more than 31,000 individuals. Their level of disability may require assistance in job placement, transportation, residential services, or intense levels of treatment, monitoring and care.

We offer assistance to people with severe disabilities. The DMR provides these services through state-operated programs and by contracting with more than 265 provider agencies across the state.

Who Does DMR Serve?

Based on available funding, the DMR provides support services to adults (18 years or older) who have mental retardation, are residents of Massachusetts, and need assistance to live or work in the community.

Families with children under 18 years of age can also receive support if the child has developmental disabilities, is a resident of Massachusetts, and if the family could benefit from support in caring for their child at home.

The DMR follows a "consumer-driven" approach. This approach places emphasis on individual needs and preferences. The DMR strives to create an array of supports, housing options, training and services that are custom fit to a person's needs and desires. This system supports people in defining their own needs and preferences in many areas including daily routine, personal goals, home, work, leisure, and life-style.

The agency strives to provide assistance that is responsive to individual needs and provided in safe environments. DMR is committed to creating opportunities for people with mental retardation to become fully integrated in their communities by providing a wide range of choices. It promotes individual decision-making, encourages family involvement and emphasizes consumer and family participation.

Individualized Service Coordination

Service coordination ensures that each person has the most appropriate supports and opportunities. DMR service coordinators provide information, assistance, crisis intervention, advocacy, and other supports. Service coordinators also conduct assessments to determine if people are eligible for services.

Flexible Family Supports

The majority of persons served by the DMR live with their families. The DMR offers a flexible array of supports to help families keep their loved ones at home. These supports may include community oriented resources, respite, special activities, and other supports.

Employment Services

These services help consumers develop and refine their work skills so they can find meaningful work. The DMR also works closely with individuals and families to help them find good jobs that meet their interests and needs.

--- *DMR Support Services* ---

Day Services

These are non-work related supports that help people develop skills to lead more fulfilling lives. Increasingly, these programs use existing community resources.

Residential Supports

The DMR provides residential service options to adults who are unable to live at home due to extreme circumstances.

Community-Based

The DMR supports people in a wide range of living arrangements in the community. These are managed by state and non-profit organizations. They can range from small family settings to group living situations.

Facilities

The DMR continues to serve 1,200 persons in its Developmental Centers. These Centers provide 24-hour support in compliance with federal regulations. The Department continues to assist individuals and families who chose to move to homes in the community.

Collaboration with Other Services

Some DMR consumers receive their services directly from generic community providers and agencies. Often they will require the services of multiple providers. DMR collaborates with all agencies to help people get the supports they need.

For More Information:

*Please Contact your Regional Office or
Central Office listed on back panel*